

## **MINUTES**

### **STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARIES**

**APRIL 19, 2002**

The State Advisory Council on Libraries convened in a regularly scheduled meeting at the University Plaza Hotel in Bowling Green, Kentucky, on April 19, 2002 with Jim Nelson presiding.

Present were:

#### Council

Mary Helen Adams  
Christi Bailey  
Karl Benson  
Ann Farmer  
Jess Gardner  
Carolyn Ingram

#### KDLA

Jim Nelson  
Richard Belding  
Judith Gibbons  
Lori Harlan  
Christie Robinson  
Kelly Reed

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Jim Nelson welcomed everyone to the meeting in Stu Tobin's absence; the Council introduced themselves to new member, Mary Helen Adams, and the new Kentucky Library Association President, Ms. Terri Kirk.

### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 18, 2002 MEETING MINUTES**

No changes were made to the January 18, 2002 meeting minutes of the State Advisory Council on Libraries; minutes were approved as distributed.

### **KLA REPORT**

Terri Kirk, President of the Kentucky Library Association, reported a very good attendance at the KLA/PLS Conference in Bowling Green with over 200 people attending the Awards Luncheon and Programs. Terri Kirk reported that several libraries promoted the "@ Your Library" Campaign in their libraries during National Library Week, April 14-20, 2002. This campaign is being sponsored by the American Library Association and has now gone international. The American Library Association has also partnered with the National Baseball League and *Woman's Day Magazine* for library awareness themes.

Ms. Kirk also reported that the Kentucky Library Association contributed a \$500.00 donation to the American Library Association to help in their legal battle against the Children's Internet Protection Act, which if passed, would require all public libraries to filter their Internet access computers. The American Library Association is currently in court proceedings with the Children's Internet Protection Act.

The Kentucky Library Association Fall Conference has been scheduled for October 16-19, 2002 in Louisville at the Galt House.

## **BUDGET UPDATE**

Jim Nelson advised the Council that at the time of this meeting, we did not have a new state budget approved. Jim distributed a handout of the KDLA General Fund Budget Analysis to the Council, which shows an 11 percent decrease in funding to local libraries over the last several years.

Several of our programs were reduced this year including state aid grants and bookmobile grants. Attorney General Ben Chandler's Office recently received money for a settlement with the Ford Motor Company for lease overcharges in the amount of \$200,000, which Mr. Chandler asked to be placed in KDLA's budget to help with the reduction in our bookmobile grant fund.

The federal level of funding currently being forwarded to Congress by the Institute of Library and Museums Services is at \$300 million dollars. States who would receive federal funding from IMLS are hopefully the funding will be passed at the \$300 million dollar level with no reductions.

## **STANDARDS UPDATE**

Judith Gibbons gave an overview of the work that has been conducted to date in establishing public library standards. These voluntary standards will be used as benchmarks that each public library can use and will help gather data in reporting standardized sources for services, funding, marketing, etc. This work began under the leadership of KLA past president, Judith Burdine, as a self-evaluation for public libraries. These standards are to be used as a tool to assist libraries in their planning efforts. The committees reviewed standards from 33 different states and decided upon establishing eight different categories for Kentucky public libraries to try to achieve. Those eight different categories consist of: access, collections, facilities, governance and administration, personnel, public relations/marketing, services and cooperation, and technology.

The final report of the standards committees were presented at the Public Library Section Conference this week in Bowling Green. Ms. Gibbons indicated that a recommendation was made to form an ongoing standing Standards Committee, as a formal KLA committee to help and assist public libraries focus on these areas of common standardization.

The overall outcome of establishing public library standards will provide direction across the state and will help evolve in improvement and equalization of public library services across the Commonwealth. The Council recognized the committee's hard work and planning efforts presented in their report, and is thankful for the leadership for providing direction to our public libraries into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **DISCUSSION & ACTION ON FIVE YEAR PLAN**

Christie Robinson reviewed the draft of the LSTA Five-Year Plan for the Council explaining that the sub-committee that worked on the draft used the needs assessment information that was gathered in 2000 from public library forums that were held around the state. Christie reported that the Five-Year Plan must accompany our agency's strategic plan and it must show key items for output and outcome targets under each objective. The plan must also include LSTA purposes under each goal, and explain how and what our agency does that directly relates to that purpose. We have sent a draft copy of the Five-Year Plan to Washington for review before the plan has to be finalized. A requirement of the plan also must include how we are going to evaluate each goal to show if it was a success. IMLS in Washington is willing to offer suggestions and helpful comments to us on the development of our evaluation reporting

sections. Diane Poole will be keeping the Council appraised of any changes or further work that will be done by the sub-committee on the plan.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Jim Nelson asked Kelly Reed for a brief update on the public awareness initiative. Kelly reported that, under the cooperative direction of Judith Gibbons, Cecelia Wooden (consultant) and himself, the initiative was progressing well. The five statewide forums for community leaders yielded excellent results, as the Advisory Council has seen -- a "values" statement for public libraries, and an accompanying "case for support," as well as a collection of personal stories about "what my public library means to me." These have become, unexpectedly, a vital part of the new LSTA five-year plan, in terms of a major "needs assessment" piece, thus doubling their value.

Kelly reported that what they are working on now is the next phase, the web presence of all this detail. As a sub-site of KDLA's website (much like the "@ your library" initiative is part of ALA's website) they are working on a KDLA "@ your library" section of [www.kdla.net](http://www.kdla.net). It will contain static sections like the values statement, the case for support, background of the project, and links of interest. But there will also be a dynamic part to the subsite, which will change frequently (perhaps once a month), where the library "stories" can be displayed, along with other timely information like Kentucky authors' statements on the worth of public libraries, and details of successful p.r. ventures at libraries across the state. Notices on various list serves (library directors, children and youth services, bookmobile librarians) will alert readers to new content on the site, utilizing "push technology."

- Jim Nelson added that, as another LSTA project, we are working toward awarding a sub-grant to a UK Library School student to further develop the KDLA and COSLA web sites, focusing on content development and interconnectivity of both sites.
- There were groundbreaking ceremonies held for Menifee and Robertson County Public Libraries in April 2002. Congratulations to those counties!
- The Council received a copy of a recent article written by Jim Nelson and published in the Kentucky Library Association Newsletter recognizing Dr. Vernon Cooper, Jr. for his lifetime love and support as a national outstanding library advocate.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date has been set for Friday, July 19, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. in the KDLA Board Room.

### **ADJOURNMENT**